

Study Guide – Outline for Lesson 1: *Foundations of Biblical Leadership: Fundamentals of the Faith*

Introduction:

- **Objective:** To explore what the Bible identifies as *fundamentals of the faith* and how these truths are foundational for biblical leadership.
 - **Opening Question:** What makes something “fundamental” in the Christian faith?
 - **Scripture Focus:** *Titus 1:9* – Holding fast the faithful word, with the ability to exhort and convince.
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Outline & Main Points

I. The Role of Sound Doctrine in Biblical Leadership

- Leaders must know, hold fast, and skillfully use Scripture (Titus 1:9).
- The ability to lead includes the ability to teach and persuade others through sound doctrine.
- Leadership extends into marriage, parenting, work, and church life.

II. What Are the Fundamentals of the Faith?

- Fundamentals are doctrines that are *first*, *foundational*, or *basic* (1 Cor. 3:11; 15:1–4).
- Examples include:
 - The doctrine of Christ as foundation (1 Cor. 3:11).
 - The gospel: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Cor. 15:3–4).
 - The Word of God as authoritative and inspired (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13).
 - The problem of sin and need for righteousness (Rom. 1:18; 3:10–24).

III. Teaching Fundamentals According to Spiritual Maturity

- *Unbelievers* need the gospel first—truths about sin, righteousness, and Christ.
- *New believers* need to be planted and established (Rom. 6:5, 1 Cor. 3:1–3).
- Use discernment—don’t teach deep doctrine to those who still need milk.
- Knowledge alone doesn’t equal spiritual maturity; application matters.

IV. Scripture Teaches Order and Design

- Paul’s epistles show an intentional sequence of teaching.
- Words like “first,” “milk,” “planted,” and “foundation” help identify key doctrines.
- Teaching others should follow this biblical structure, not be random or overwhelming.

Conclusion:

Biblical leadership begins with a deep relationship with the faithful Word and the discernment to lead others in truth, step-by-step. As Paul modeled, we must deliver the gospel and foundational doctrines in a way appropriate to the hearer's understanding. Leaders are called to be skilled teachers—not just of doctrine—but of people. When the right foundation is laid, spiritual growth and fruit will follow.

Challenge/Assignment:

- Read through Paul's epistles. Identify key doctrines described as "first," "planted," "milk," or "foundation."
- Ask: Are these addressed to unbelievers or believers? What makes them foundational?